

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01

SS-15 /100 W

-----031724 091226Z /16

O R 091215Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8362

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, FR, SA

SUBJ: FRENCH AGREE TO PROPOSED MEETING ON ECONOMIC
RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REFS: A. STATE 54137. B. PARIS 7711.

1. AFTER SOME HESITATION, FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON MARCH 16-17. FRENCH DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY BE LED BY CHRISTIAN D'AUMALE, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF FINANCE MINISTRY AND QUAI UN DIRECTORATE. FRENCH REQUEST INFORMATION ON TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING, AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS INsofar AS THEY MAY ALREADY BE KNOWN.

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2. FRENCH AT FIRST TOLD US THEY WERE INCLINED TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE DATES BEGINNING MARCH 23. THEY FELT PERIOD BETWEEN TWO ROUNDS OF FRENCH ELECTIONS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM. FYI: AFRICAN POLICY IS ONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY AREAS MOST LIKELY TO CHANGE IF THE LEFT WINS THE ELECTIONS; THUS FRENCH OBVIOUSLY FELT A MEETING AFTER THE ELECTIONS,

WHEN THE POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD BE CLARIFIED, WOULD
BE MORE USEFUL. END FYI. WE ARGUED THAT DATES HAD
BEEN CHOSEN TO ENSURE THAT MEETING HELD BEFORE UN
DEBATE WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD WOULD BEGIN ABOUT MARCH 21,
AND NOTED THAT AT LEAST ONE OTHER COUNTRY HAD ALREADY
ACCEPTED FOR MARCH 16-17. DESPITE THEIR HESITATION,
FRENCH LATER INFORMED US OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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